

STATE OF MARYLAND  
**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT**  
Shari T. Wilson, Secretary

**BILL NO:** House Bill 876

**COMMITTEE:** Environmental Matters

**POSITION:** Oppose

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**TITLE:** Environment – Healthy Homes Initiative

**BILL ANALYSIS:**

The proposed legislation would create a new Part IX. Healthy Homes Initiative under Section 6-855 of the Environment Article and require the Secretary of the Department of the Environment to establish a Healthy Homes Initiative in the Department with the purpose to protect children and adults from housing-related health and safety hazards, including lead exposure. The bill authorizes the Secretary to apply for federal grants in the Healthy Homes Demonstration Program and Healthy Homes Technical Studies Program in the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. It would require the Secretary to administer any federal grant money received under these Programs for any purpose that is consistent with the Healthy Homes Initiative in the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**POSITION AND RATIONALE:**

The Department opposes this bill. There is no funding mechanism identified in the bill and the Department's fiscal note for the bill includes costs of nearly \$100,000, including requiring two new positions to implement the bill's requirements. The Department would need to create a new program or broaden its current Lead Poisoning Prevention Program that is now focused entirely on lead poisoning prevention for children. This legislation adds an array of housing related concerns, such as mold, allergens, asthma, carbon monoxide, radon, insect and rodent pests, home safety, and toxics in building materials, and expands the reach to include adults. The Department has no expertise or involvement in these issues at this time.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,**  
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